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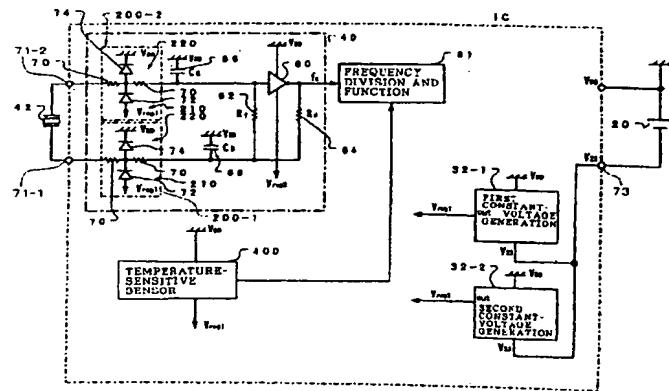
(54) OSCILLATION CIRCUIT, ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT, AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, CLOCK, AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS WHICH COMPRIZE THESE CIRCUITS

(57) There is provided an oscillation circuit that enables oscillation at a stable frequency, unaffected by changes in the power-supply voltage of a main power source.

An electrostatic protection circuit 200 provided for an oscillation circuit 40 includes a first electrostatic protection circuit section 210 connected between a signal

path and the constant voltage V_{reg} side, which bypasses an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} side through a diode 72, and a second electrostatic protection circuit section 220 connected between the signal path and the ground side, which bypasses an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the ground side through a diode 74.

FIG. 2



Description**TECHNICAL FIELD**

5 [0001] The present invention relates to an oscillation circuit and an electronic circuit, and a semiconductor device, a timepiece and electronic equipment provided with the same.

BACKGROUND OF ART

10 [0002] The oscillation circuit used in a portable wristwatch or electronic equipment often has a configuration such that a principal circuit portion thereof that is formed on a semiconductor substrate is connected by input-output terminals to a crystal oscillator provided at a separate location on that semiconductor substrate. For that reason, an electrostatic protection circuit is provided on the input-output terminal side of that principal circuit portion, to protect that principal circuit portion from any surge voltage intruding from the exterior through those input-output terminals.

15 [0003] However, in such a conventional circuit, the power source of the oscillation circuit drive is utilized for bypassing surge voltages of the electrostatic protection circuit, so that if there should be a change in the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit for some reason, that would cause a change in the parasitic capacitance of that electrostatic protection circuit and, as a result, that would raise a problem in that the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit will change.

20 **DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION**

[0004] An objective of the present invention is to provide an oscillation circuit and an electronic circuit which enable protection of the principal circuit portions thereof from any surge voltage that intrudes from the exterior through input-output terminals, and which can oscillate at a stable frequency without being affected by changes in the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit, together with a semiconductor device, a timepiece and electronic equipment that are provided with the oscillation circuit and the electronic circuit.

(1) To achieve this objective, an oscillation circuit in accordance with the present invention comprises:

30 a first electrostatic protection circuit connected between a signal path of the oscillation circuit and a constant-voltage side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through a first semiconductor rectifier element; and
 35 a second electrostatic protection circuit connected between the signal path and a reference potential side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the reference potential side through a second semiconductor rectifier element,

wherein the constant bypass voltage is a constant voltage that is supplied separately from a power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit.

40 An oscillation circuit in accordance with the present invention comprises:

a first electrostatic protection circuit connected between a signal path of the oscillation circuit and a constant-voltage side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through a first semiconductor rectifier element; and
 45 a second electrostatic protection circuit connected between the signal path and a reference potential side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the reference potential side through a second semiconductor rectifier element,

50 wherein one of a supplied constant voltage from a constant voltage supply circuit and a constant voltage obtained by dividing or stepping up the supplied constant voltage is used as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit, and the other is used as the constant bypass voltage.

With electronic circuitry, it is common to provide various different constant voltages separate from the power source of the oscillation circuit, and it is also possible to generate a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit and another constant voltage that is not readily affected by changes in that power-supply voltage.

55 An oscillation circuit in accordance with the present invention utilizes an electrostatic protection circuit of a configuration such that it is connected to a constant-voltage side which is not greatly affected by changes in that power-supply voltage, instead of being connected to the power-source side of the oscillation circuit. Since this means that there is no change in the constant bypass voltage connected to the electrostatic protection circuit even

if the voltage of the power source for the oscillation circuit changes, it is possible to effectively suppress any change in the parasitic capacitance of the semiconductor rectifier element that configures the electrostatic protection circuit.

5 The present invention therefore makes it possible to provide an oscillation circuit that has no change in oscillation frequency, even if the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit should change.

10 In this case, components such as diodes or bipolar transistors can be used as the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements of the electrostatic protection circuit, as necessary.

15 (2) The first electrostatic protection circuit of the present invention may comprise a third semiconductor rectifier element connected between the signal path of the oscillation circuit and a main power source, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the main power-supply voltage side.

20 The parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element may be set to be a value that is smaller than the parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier.

25 In particular, the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element could be set to a value of an order of magnitude that can be ignored in comparison with the parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier element.

30 This configuration ensures that, even if the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element has been changed by a change in the main power-supply voltage, this will not have any substantial effect, making it possible to provide an oscillation output at a stable oscillation frequency.

35 In accordance with the present invention, the parasitic capacitance of each of the above semiconductor rectifier elements could be used as either a part or the entirety of a phase-compensation capacitor.

40 This configuration makes it possible to omit either part or the entirety of such a phase - compensation capacitor, and also makes it possible to increase the degree of integration of the overall circuit.

45 (3) An oscillation circuit in accordance with the present invention comprises:

50 a first electrostatic protection circuit connected between a signal path of the oscillation circuit and a constant-voltage side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through a first semiconductor rectifier element; and

55 a second electrostatic protection circuit connected between the signal path and a reference potential side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the reference potential side through a second semiconductor rectifier element,

60 wherein the constant bypass voltage is set to a value such that the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements are not turned on by voltage change in the signal path caused by a leakage current, even when a leakage current is generated between the signal path and a power-supply voltage line.

65 In this case, when it is assumed that the power-supply voltage is V_{SS} , the forward-direction on-voltage of the semiconductor rectifier element is V_{Fon} , and the potential difference between the signal path and the power-supply voltage line when a leakage current is generated is V_R ; the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} may be set in such a manner that the following inequality is satisfied, within a range of expected operating voltages of the power-supply voltage $|V_{SS}|$:

$$|V_{reg}| > |V_{SS}| - V_R - V_{Fon}$$

70 The constant bypass voltage may be a constant voltage V_{reg1} that is supplied separately from a constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit.

75 The constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} and the constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied as the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit may be set in such a manner that the following inequality is satisfied:

$$|V_{reg1}| > |V_{reg2}|$$

80 One voltage V_{reg2} , which is one of a supplied constant voltage from a constant voltage supply circuit and a constant voltage obtained by dividing or stepping up the supplied constant voltage, may be used as a power - supply voltage for the oscillation circuit, and the other voltage V_{reg1} may be used as the constant bypass voltage.

85 A constant voltage having a temperature characteristic that ensures a small voltage variation with respect to a temperature change may be used as the constant bypass voltage. For example, a constant voltage for driving

a temperature sensor can be used as this constant bypass voltage, since it has a temperature characteristic with a shallow slope.

5 A discharging semiconductor rectifier element for discharging an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through the first semiconductor rectifier element, may be provided between an output of the constant voltage supply circuit which supplies the constant bypass voltage and the reference potential.

(4) An electronic circuit may be formed by using an oscillation circuit in accordance with the present invention.

10 [0005] This electronic circuit may comprise the oscillation circuit and a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit.

[0006] This makes it possible to obtain an electronic circuit that enables satisfactory operation using a stable frequency output supplied from the oscillation circuit.

15 [0007] A semiconductor device may be formed by using an oscillation circuit or electronic circuit in accordance with the present invention.

[0008] In other words, if an oscillation circuit that uses a crystal oscillator or an electronic circuit using such an oscillation circuit is formed on a semiconductor device, the principle circuit portions of the oscillation circuit formed on the circuit board are often connected by wiring to a crystal oscillator provided in a different area of that circuit board. In such a case, there is a danger that electrostatic voltages such as surge voltages will intrude as noise from the 20 connections between the crystal oscillator and the principal circuit portions, damaging the interior of the circuitry.

[0009] In that case, too, the present invention makes it possible to use an electrostatic protection circuit to remove an electrostatic voltage such as a surge voltage that may intrude into the circuitry, and thus implement a semiconductor device that can drive the various parts of the circuit in a favorable manner using a stabilized oscillation output.

25 [0010] A timepiece may be formed by using an oscillation circuit or electronic circuit in accordance with the present invention. This timepiece may comprise an oscillation circuit and a time display section which displays a time based on the oscillation circuit.

[0011] The present invention makes it possible to provide a timepiece that can keep accurate time without being affected by variations in the power-supply voltage of the main power source thereof.

30 [0012] Electronic equipment may be formed by using an oscillation circuit or electronic circuit in accordance with the present invention.

[0013] Electronic equipment may be configured to comprise an oscillation circuit, a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit, and the driven section.

35 [0014] This makes it possible to implement electronic equipment that can generate an accurate oscillation output that is not affected by any changes in the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit, to cause the operation of the parts of the circuitry.

[0015] In particular, a timepiece or electronic equipment that uses an oscillation circuit or electronic circuit in accordance with the present invention is extremely suitable as a portable timepiece or other item of electronic equipment that uses an exchangeable battery or a rechargeable battery as a main power source.

40 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016]

45 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an example of an electric circuit for a wristwatch, to which the present invention is applied.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the timepiece circuit portion of the electronic circuit of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of another embodiment of the timepiece circuit portion.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a further embodiment of the timepiece circuit portion.

50 Fig. 5 is illustrative of the state of voltage variations in two different power sources used by the circuit of this embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 6A is an equivalent circuit diagram of the crystal oscillation circuit of Fig. 2, Fig. 6B is illustrative of the crystal oscillator, Fig. 6C is an equivalent circuit diagram of the crystal oscillator, and Fig. 6D is the equivalent circuit of Fig. 6A that has been formed from consideration of the equivalent circuit of the crystal oscillator.

Fig. 7 is illustrative of another electrostatic protection circuit.

55 Fig. 8 is illustrative of an electrostatic protection circuit used in the prior art.

Fig. 9 is an equivalent circuit of the electrostatic protection circuit of Fig. 7.

Fig. 10 is illustrative of an electrostatic protection circuit fabricated by using other types of semiconductor elements.

Fig. 11 is illustrative of the layout of a CMOS-IC that forms essential components of a crystal oscillator and an

oscillation circuit on a substrate.

Fig. 12 is an equivalent circuit of a case in which a leakage current is generated between the signal path of the oscillation circuit and the power-supply voltage line.

5 Fig. 13 is illustrative of the temperature characteristics of the oscillation-stopping voltage and the constant voltage for driving the oscillation, within the guaranteed operating temperature range of the oscillation circuit.

Fig. 14 is a schematic illustrative view of the constant voltage generation circuit for driving a temperature sensor.

Fig. 15 is illustrative of the discharge pathways when an electrostatic voltage of a negative polarity is applied.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

10

[0017] Preferred embodiments of the present invention are described below with reference to examples in which the present invention is applied to a wristwatch having an analog display.

15

(1) Overall Configuration

20

[0018] An example of an electronic circuit used in this wristwatch is shown in Fig. 1.

25

This wristwatch has an internal power generation mechanism that is not shown in this figure. When the user moves the arm on which the wristwatch is placed, a rotating weight of a power generation mechanism rotates, a power-generating rotor is made to rotate at high speed by the movement energy generated thereby, and an AC voltage is output from a power-generating coil 10 provided on a power-generating stage side.

30

[0020] This AC voltage is rectified by a diode 12 and charges a secondary battery 14. This secondary battery 14 configures a main power source 20, together with a booster circuit 16 and an auxiliary capacitor 18.

35

[0021] With this embodiment of the invention, when the voltage of the secondary battery 14 drops so that it is not sufficient as the drive voltage of the timepiece, the voltage of the secondary battery 14 is converted by the booster circuit 16 to a higher voltage that makes it possible to drive the timepiece, and accumulates in the auxiliary capacitor 18. This voltage of the auxiliary capacitor 18 operates a timepiece circuit 30 as a power-supply voltage V_{SS} .

40

[0022] This timepiece circuit 30 is formed as a semiconductor device, with the configuration being such that an oscillation frequency which is preset by using a crystal oscillator 42 connected by terminals to this semiconductor device is generated, as an oscillation frequency of 32,768 Hz in this case, then drive pulses having different polarities each second are output by dividing this oscillation output. These drive pulses are input to a drive coil 22 of a step motor that is connected to the timepiece circuit 30. This ensures that the rotor of a step motor (not shown in the figure) is driven in rotation every time a drive pulse passes therethrough, which drives the second, minute, and hour hands of the timepiece to give an analog display of time.

45

(2) Crystal Oscillation Circuit

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[0023] A specific circuit configuration of a crystal oscillation circuit 40 that is a feature of this embodiment of the present invention is shown in Fig. 2.

55

[0024] This crystal oscillation circuit 40 comprises basically an inverter 60, a feed-back resistor 62, a drain resistor 64, and phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 68, and an oscillation output thereof with an oscillation frequency f_s is output to a frequency division circuit and function circuit 81.

60

[0025] First and second constant voltage generation circuits 32-1 and 32-2 generate first and second constant voltages V_{reg1} and V_{reg2} from a voltage V_{SS} that is supplied from the main power source 20. These first and second constant voltages V_{reg1} and V_{reg2} could be either the same voltage or different voltages. The second voltage V_{reg2} is used as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit drive and is applied to the inverter 60.

65

[0026] It should be noted that the timepiece circuit 30 of Fig. 1 is formed by a CMOS-IC 300, which is basically a semiconductor circuit, except for the crystal oscillator 42 which is shown in Fig. 11, and the CMOS-IC 300 and crystal oscillator 42 that configure the essential components of this oscillation circuit are connected by wiring 310.

70

[0027] In other words, the crystal oscillator 42 is connected by input-output terminals to the main circuitry portions of the oscillation circuit 40 that is formed within the CMOS-IC 300. There is therefore a danger that a surge voltage that is input through these input-output terminals could damage the internal circuitry.

75

[0028] This surge voltage could be one imposed from the jig used during assembly or one imposed from a human operator.

80

[0029] For that reason, electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 are provided within the crystal oscillation circuit 40.

85

[0030] These electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 are provided for each signal path connected to the input terminals. Since these electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 have the same configuration, the description herein takes just the electrostatic protection circuit 200-1 as an example.

[0031] This electrostatic protection circuit 200-1 comprises a resistor 70, a first electrostatic protection circuit section 210 that provides a bypass on the constant-voltage side for selectively bypassing through a first semiconductor rectifier element 72 any electrostatic voltages of a negative polarity that are introduced into the signal path of the oscillation circuit, and a second electrostatic protection circuit section 220 that provides a bypass on the ground side for selectively bypassing through a second semiconductor rectifier element 74 any electrostatic voltages of a positive polarity that are introduced into the signal path of the oscillation circuit.

[0032] This resistor 70 is connected in series with the signal path and is designed to protect the rectifier elements 72 and 74 from surge voltages.

[0033] The first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 are configured of diodes of a PN junction type. The diode that forms the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 is connected in the reverse direction to the output terminal side of the constant voltage (V_{reg1}) of the constant voltage generation circuit 32-1, and the diode that forms the second semiconductor rectifier element 74 is connected in the forward direction to the ground (V_{DD}) side.

[0034] This ensures that any surge voltage of a negative polarity that is introduced from the exterior is bypassed to the constant voltage terminal V_{reg1} side and any surge voltage of a positive polarity is bypassed to the ground side, thus preventing the introduction thereof into the semiconductor circuitry.

[0035] This embodiment of the present invention is characterized in that a constant voltage V_{reg1} , which does not vary even if the power-supply voltage V_{reg2} if the drive power source of the oscillation circuit does vary, is used as the constant bypass voltage of the first semiconductor rectifier element 72.

[0036] Various embodiments of this constant voltage V_{reg1} supply are illustrated in Figs. 2 to 4.

[0037] The description first concerns the electronic circuit of Fig. 2.

[0038] The electronic circuit of this embodiment comprises the plurality of constant voltage generation circuits 32-1 and 32-2 that generate different constant voltages V_{reg1} and V_{reg2} , where one constant voltage V_{reg1} drives a temperature sensor 400 and the other constant voltage V_{reg2} drives the crystal oscillation circuit 40.

[0039] This temperature sensor 400 detects the environment in which the electronic circuit is being used, and supplies a detection signal to the frequency division circuit and function circuit 81.

[0040] In this case, the frequency division circuit and function circuit 81 functions both as a frequency division circuit that divides the output of the oscillation circuit 40 and also as various functional circuits.

[0041] The crystal oscillation circuit 40 of this embodiment of the invention is characterized in that it uses a constant voltage that differs from the constant voltage used for driving the oscillation circuit, more specifically, the constant voltage V_{reg1} for driving the temperature sensor 400, as the constant bypass voltage connected to the first electrostatic protection circuit section 210.

[0042] More specifically, a PN-junction diode 72 in each of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 has one end connected to the signal path side of the oscillation circuit and the other end connected to the constant voltage V_{reg1} side.

[0043] The description now turns to the embodiment shown in Fig. 3.

[0044] This embodiment of the invention comprises the constant voltage generation circuit 32-2, which generates the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40, and the constant voltage generation circuit 32-1, which generates the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} used only by the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2.

[0045] The crystal oscillation circuit 40 is driven by the constant voltage V_{reg2} .

[0046] Each of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 has a diode 72 that functions as a first semiconductor rectifier element, which has one end connected to the constant voltage V_{reg1} for the electrostatic protection circuits.

[0047] The description now turns to the embodiment shown in Fig. 4.

[0048] The electronic circuit of this embodiment of the invention comprises a the constant voltage generation circuit 32 that generates the given constant voltage V_{reg1} and a voltage - dividing circuit 33 that generates the given constant voltage V_{reg2} by dividing this constant voltage V_{reg1} .

[0049] The oscillation circuit 40 uses this V_{reg2} for driving.

[0050] In addition, each of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 has a diode 72 that functions as a first semiconductor rectifier element connected to the constant voltage V_{reg1} side.

[0051] Note that the configuration could be such that the crystal oscillation circuit 40 is driven by using the constant voltage V_{reg1} and the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 are connected to the V_{reg2} side, if necessary. Alternatively, if the voltage-dividing circuit 33 outputs a plurality of constant voltages as voltage-dividing outputs, the configuration could be such that one of this plurality of voltage-dividing outputs or the constant voltage V_{reg1} is used for driving the crystal oscillation circuit 40 and the remaining voltages are connected to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2. A booster circuit could also be used instead of a voltage-dividing circuit.

[0052] Use of any of the configurations shown in Figs. 2 to 4 ensures that the oscillation frequency f_s of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 is always at a constant value, without any variation in the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74, if the power-supply voltage V_{SS} of the main power source 20 or the power-supply

voltage V_{reg2} of the oscillation circuit should vary for any reason.

[0053] This is described in detail below.

[0054] The relationship between the constant voltage V_{reg1} for bypass and the power-supply voltage V_{SS} is shown in Fig. 5. The power-supply voltage V_{SS} (negative in this embodiment) supplied from the main power source has a value greater than the absolute value of the constant voltage V_{reg1} (also negative in this embodiment) that is always output from each of the constant voltage generation circuit 32. However, this power-supply voltage V_{SS} often varies due to factors such as variations in load or the charging state of the main power source 20, as shown in Fig. 5.

[0055] In contrast thereto, the constant voltage V_{reg1} that is output from the constant voltage generation circuit 32 is not affected much by this voltage V_{SS} of the main power source, so it is always constant.

[0056] A known problem with the prior art, which occurs when the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 is connected to the voltage side of the main power source 20 that has a large capacitance, V_{SS} is discussed below.

[0057] If the voltage V_{SS} of the main power source 20 changes, the values of the parasitic capacitances of the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 formed of semiconductor devices also change.

[0058] The parasitic electrostatic capacitance C of the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 formed of PN junctions within the IC, particularly of the PN junction portions thereof, is generally given by the following equation:

$$C = A \sqrt{\frac{N_D}{V_A + V_B}} \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

where A is a constant, V_A is the applied voltage, N_D is the impurity concentration, and V_B is the potential difference across the PN junction.

[0059] From this equation, it is clear that this parasitic capacitance C varies as the power-supply voltage V_A ($=V_{SS}$) varies.

[0060] If this parasitic capacitance C varies, the result is that the oscillation frequency f_s of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 also changes. This is described in more detail below.

(2-1) Countermeasures Against Oscillation Frequency Variation

[0061] An equivalent circuit of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 is shown in Fig. 6A.

[0062] The crystal oscillator 42 is shown in Fig. 6B and an equivalent circuit thereof is shown in Fig. 6C.

[0063] If the equivalent circuit of Fig. 6C is used, the oscillation circuit 40 of Fig. 6A can be expressed as the circuit shown in Fig. 6D.

[0064] The oscillation frequency f_s of the LC oscillation circuit (the oscillation circuit 40) expressed by the equivalent circuit of Fig. 6D is given by the following equation:

$$f_s = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{L'C_G}} \cdot f_1(C_D') \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

[0065] It is clear from this equation that if the internal capacitance C_G' of the oscillation circuit varies, the oscillation frequency f_s also varies. In other words, since Equation 2 includes values of the parasitic capacitances C_{VDD} and C_{VSS} of the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74, any change in those values will make the oscillation frequency f_s change.

[0066] In contrast thereto, the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 of this embodiment of the present invention is connected to the constant voltage V_{reg1} that does not vary. For that reason, it is possible for the crystal oscillation circuit 40 to generate an oscillation output that is always at the constant frequency f_s without being affected by the variation of the power supply voltage V_{SS} .

[0067] In addition, the above configurations ensure that the parasitic capacitances of the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 are always constant. It is therefore possible to utilize the values of these parasitic capacitances actively as the phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 68. This makes it possible to ensure that the capacitances of the phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 88 of Figs. 2 to 4 are small, which in turn makes it possible to omit those phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 88.

[0068] It therefore becomes possible to reduce the number of components of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 and increase the degree of integration thereof.

[0069] This embodiment of the invention also makes it possible to increase the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 themselves, by utilizing the parasitic capacitances of the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 as either part or the entirety of the phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 68.

[0070] In other words, if the phase-compensation capacitors 66 and 68 and the diodes 72 and 74 are provided completely separately, it is necessary to use diodes 72 and 74 having small parasitic capacitances, from the viewpoint of reducing the overall capacitance of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 and reducing the power consumption thereof. In such a case, the electrostatic breakdown resistance also deteriorates in correspondence with this parasitic capacitance.

[0071] In contrast thereto, the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 of this embodiment of the present invention are used actively as the phase-compensation capacitors, making it possible to use components with large parasitic capacitances as semiconductor elements. As a result, the electrostatic breakdown resistances of the elements 72 and 74 themselves are increases, making it possible to increase the electrostatic protection capabilities of the entire circuit.

10 (3) Another Embodiment

[0072] Another example of the application of the present invention is shown in Fig. 7. The electrostatic protection circuit of this embodiment is characterized in the use of a third semiconductor rectifier element 78 that is connected in the reverse direction to the main power source V_{SS} . Since this makes it possible to configure a surge voltage bypass circuit on the large-capacitance main power source 20 side, it enables an increase in the electrostatic breakdown resistance of the electrostatic protection circuit 200.

[0073] Note that variations in the power-supply voltage V_{SS} will have an effect in that they will cause the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element 78 to vary. For that reason, amount of variation of the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element 78 is preferably set so that it has only a few percentage points of effect with respect to the amount of variation of the total parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 and the third semiconductor rectifier element 78, by setting the value of the parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 one-digit to two-digit larger than that of the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element 78. This ensures that the value of the electrostatic capacitance of the entire circuit is always stable, making it possible to obtain a more stable oscillation output.

25 (4) Comparison with Conventional Art

[0074] An example of a conventional electrostatic protection circuit in which the semiconductor rectifier element 72 is connected to the main power source V_{SS} side is shown in Fig. 8. In the conventional example of Fig. 8, the first semiconductor rectifier element 72, which is connected to the main power source that varies with the power-supply voltage V_{SS} , is represented in circuit terms as an element with variable parasitic capacitance C_{VSS} .

[0075] Studies on the frequency deviation in an example of a crystal oscillation circuit that uses this conventional electrostatic protection circuit are described below.

[0076] In the conventional circuit of Fig. 8, actual measured values of C_G and C_D , which are the total capacitances of the internal circuitry of the IC (semiconductor device) comprising the electrostatic protection circuit 200, as seen from the gate terminal and drain terminal of a transistor that configures a gate 60 of the crystal oscillation circuit 40, are given by the equations below. In this case, since the resistance R_f of a resistor 62 is extremely high, the value of C_{DO} can be omitted from the value of C_G in the following equations, as can the value of C_{GO} from the value of C_D .

$$C_G = C_{GO} + C_{VDD} + C_{VSS} + C_{GP} = 10.8 \text{ (PF)}$$

$$C_D = C_{DO} + C_{VDD} + C_{VSS} + C_{DP} = 6.1 \text{ (PF)} \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

[0077] When the power-supply voltage V_{SS} varies from 1.1 volts to 2.4 volts in this conventional circuit, the amount of variation of the parasitic capacitance C_{VSS} of the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 is $\Delta C_{VSS} = 0.07 \text{ (PF)}$.

[0078] Studies were then performed on how much the amount of variation of this parasitic capacitance affects the overall electrostatic capacitance of the crystal oscillation circuit 40.

[0079] First of all, if the ratio of the amount of variation of the parasitic capacitance of the electrostatic protection circuit 200-2 with respect to C_G of Fig. 3 is obtained, it can be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\Delta C_{VSS}}{C_{GO} + C_{VDD} + C_{VSS} + C_{GP}} \left(= \frac{7}{1080} \right) \quad \dots \dots \quad (\text{Equation 4})$$

[0080] Similarly, the ratio of the amount of variation of the parasitic capacitance of the electrostatic protection circuit 200-1 with respect to C_D of Fig. 3 is given by:

$$5 \quad \frac{\Delta C_{VSS}}{C_{D0} + C_{VDD} + C_{VSS} + C_{DP}} \left(= \frac{7}{610} \right) \quad \dots \dots \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

10 [0081] In this case, C_{GP} and C_{DP} denote the corresponding wiring capacitances of the crystal oscillation circuit 40.
 [0082] If the value of the frequency deviation of the oscillation circuit is obtained from this amount of variation of parasitic capacitance, it is $(df/dv) = 3$ (PPM). This is approximately 8 seconds if calculated over a month. If the permissible monthly variation of a timepiece is on the order of 15 seconds, 8 seconds of that 15 seconds could be taken up by variations in the parasitic capacitance, which cannot possibly be permitted.
 15 [0083] In contrast thereto, the first semiconductor rectifier element 72 is connected to the power source V_{reg1} that does not vary, as shown in Figs. 2 to 4, so that the variation in the parasitic capacitance thereof can be substantially ignored and thus the frequency deviation of the oscillation frequency of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 itself is improved to a degree such that it can be ignored, in comparison with the conventional circuit.
 20 [0084] Similar studies have been performed on the crystal oscillation circuit 40 that uses the electrostatic protection circuit of the other embodiment shown in Fig. 7. An equivalent circuit of this electrostatic protection circuit is shown in Fig. 9. In this case, the third semiconductor rectifier element 78 forms an element in which the parasitic capacitance C_{VSS} varies.
 25 [0085] In the circuit shown in Fig. 9 too, the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element 78 is formed to be sufficiently smaller than the parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier element 72, so that the frequency deviation of the overall circuit can be made much smaller than that in which the electrostatic protection circuit of Fig. 8 is used, even if this parasitic capacitance C_{VSS} varies.

(5) Embodiments with Constant Bypass Voltage V_{reg1} Connected to Electrostatic Protection Circuit

30 5-1 First Embodiment

35 [0086] The constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} that is connected to the electrostatic protection circuit 200-1 is set to a value such that the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 do not turn on because of a change in voltage in the signal path generated by that leakage current, even if a leakage current is generated between the signal path of the crystal oscillation circuit 40 and the line for the power-supply voltage V_{SS} .
 [0087] If this power-supply voltage is assumed to be V_{SS} , the forward-direction on-voltage of each of the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 is V_{Fon} , and the potential difference between the signal line and the power-supply voltage line when a leakage current is generated is V_R , as shown by way of example in Fig. 12, the constant bypass voltage $|IV_{reg1}|$ is set to a value such that the following inequality is satisfied, within a expected operating voltage for the power-supply voltage $|IV_{SS}|$ (within the range of 1.2 to 2 V, by way of example):

$$|IV_{reg1}| > |IV_{SS}| - V_R - V_{Fon}$$

45 [0088] This makes it possible to maintain stable oscillation, without being affected by any leakage current between the signal path of the oscillation circuit 40 and the power-supply voltage V_{SS} line, even if such a leakage current occurs. This is described in detail below.
 [0089] The descriptions of the above embodiments related to examples in which the constant voltage generation circuits 32-1 and 32-2 are formed separately and the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} connected to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 is formed separately from the constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied to the oscillation circuit 40. To simplify the description herein, an idealized situation is used in which the two constant voltage generation circuits 32 are formed to be the same circuit and the same constant voltage V_{reg} is provided to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 and the oscillation circuit 40.
 50 [0090] In the circuit of this embodiment, the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} connected to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 is preferably set to a value such that the oscillation of the oscillation circuit 40 does not stop, even if a leakage current caused by a change in the environment, such as a humidity change, occurs between input-output terminals 71-1 and 71-2 of the oscillation circuit 40 and a line 73 for the power-supply voltage V_{SS} .
 55 [0091] In other words, a leakage current corresponding to an environmental change such as a change in humidity

could occur between the input-output terminals 71-1 and 71-2 of the oscillation circuit 40, which are attached to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2, and the line 73 of the power-supply voltage V_{SS} .

[0092] This leakage current can occur when the IC is mounted on a circuit board, as shown in Fig. 11, and the insulation resistance of the circuit board has dropped because of an environmental change, such as a change in humidity. More specifically, a drop in the insulation resistance can occur between a wiring pattern 310 of the circuit board shown in Fig. 11, which is connected to input-output terminals of the oscillation circuit, and a wiring pattern (power-supply voltage line) for the power-supply voltage V_{SS} . This phenomenon is remarkably common when the material of the circuit board is a polyimide.

[0093] An equivalent circuit of Fig. 12 shows the state when a leakage current has occurred between the input-output terminals 71-1 and 71-2 of the oscillation circuit 40 and the line 73 of the power-supply voltage V_{SS} .

[0094] When a leakage current occurs, a forward-direction voltage V_F given by the equation below is applied to a semiconductor rectifier element D2 (72) that forms one of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 (the voltage drop due to the resistance of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 is small so can be ignored).

15 $V_F = IV_{SS}I - V_R - IV_{reg}I$ (Equation 6)

[0095] In this case, assume that the forward-direction on-voltage that turns on the semiconductor rectifier elements 72 and 74 is V_{Fon} . This forward-direction on-voltage is usually on the order of 0.6 V. If the forward-direction voltage V_F has a value greater than that of this forward-direction on-voltage, the semiconductor rectifier element D2 turns on and a forward-direction current flows.

[0096] For that reason, the forward-direction voltage V_F is set to be less than the value of V_{Fon} .

25 $V_F < V_{Fon} = 0.6 \text{ (V)}$ (Equation 7)

[0097] (If the polarity of the power-supply voltage is that of a positive power source V_{DD} , using V_{SS} as a reference potential, a forward-direction current flows in the semiconductor rectifier element D1.)

[0098] This flow of forward-direction current causes the following problems:

30

- The constant voltage V_{reg} moves towards the power-supply voltage V_{SS} side (increase in absolute value).
- Since the constant voltage V_{reg} changes, the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements of the electrostatic protection circuit also change and the frequency voltage deviation increases.
- The change in constant voltage V_{reg} towards the power-supply voltage V_{SS} side (increase in absolute value) leads to an increase in the current consumption of the oscillation circuit.
- If the semiconductor rectifier element D2 goes into a completely on state, the oscillation of the oscillation circuit will halt.

[0099] To ensure that none of the above problems occur, more specifically, to ensure that the semiconductor rectifier element D2 is not turned on, the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} connected to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 must be set to a value that satisfies the above Equations 6 and 7.

[0100] For a rechargeable timepiece, the power-supply voltage V_{SS} is on the order of -2 V, so the constant voltage V_{reg} that satisfies both Equations 6 and 7 is given by the equation below. In other words, to ensure that the above problems do not occur, the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} must be set to satisfy the equation below.

[0101] More specifically, the value of the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} must be set to a value that satisfies the following equation within the expected operating range (a range of 1.2 to 2 V, for example), as the voltage range of the power-supply voltage V_{SS} that enables the oscillation circuit to operate:

50 $IV_{reg}I > IV_{SS}I - V_R - V_{Fon} = 1.4 \text{ (V)} - V_R$ (Equation 8)

[0102] The use of the above-described configuration ensures that, even if a leakage current occurs between a signal of the oscillation circuit 40 (such as the input-output terminals 71-1 and 71-2) and the line 73 of the power-supply voltage V_{SS} , the semiconductor rectifier element 72 is not turned on by any voltage change in the signal path (the input-output terminals 71-1 and 71-2) of the oscillation circuit 40 that may be caused by that leakage current. As a result, it is possible to ensure the stable operation of the oscillation circuit even in such a leakage current should occur.

[0103] Note that the above description dealt with an example in which the polarity of the power-supply voltage V_{SS}

is negative with respect to a reference potential, but it should be obvious that a similar effect can be obtained in the opposite case in which the polarity of the power-supply voltage is positive with respect to the reference potential. In such a case too, it is possible to prevent a situation in which the semiconductor rectifier element D1 (74) is turned on and a forward-direction current flows, by setting the reference potential to V_{SS} and setting the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} to a value that satisfies Equation 8, thus enabling stable driving of the oscillation circuit. (In that case, V_{SS} of Fig. 8 becomes V_{DD} .)

[0104] As described previously, if the constant voltage V_{reg2} of the oscillation circuit 40 and the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 are made to be the same constant voltage by using the constant voltage generation circuit 32 in common, a problem arises in that it is not possible to set the constant voltage for driving the oscillation circuit 40 to a small value, with the aim of reducing current consumption.

[0105] In other words, if the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 is the same as the constant voltage V_{reg2} used for driving the oscillation circuit 40, it is no longer possible to set the constant voltage V_{reg2} to be small with the aim of reducing the current consumption of the oscillation circuit 40, so long as V_R of Equation 8 does not become large, in other words, so long as a circuit board with a large insulation resistance is not used.

[0106] In order to solve that problem, the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} is preferably set to be a constant voltage that is separate from the expected constant voltage V_{reg1} for driving the oscillation circuit 40. More specifically, it is preferable to use separate constant voltage generation circuits 32-1 and 32-2 as shown in Figs. 2 to 4, and separately generate the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} and the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit. It is also preferable that the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} supplied to the constant voltage generation circuit 32 is set to satisfy Equation 8 and also that the constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied for driving the oscillation circuit 40 is set to a small absolute value that optimizes the low power consumption of the oscillation circuit 40. This makes it possible to ensure both of the conditions of reduced current and power consumptions of the oscillation circuit 40 and a stable oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit 40.

[0107] In other words, the output V_{reg1} of the constant voltage generation circuit 32-1 is set to satisfy Equation 8 and is connected to the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2. The output V_{reg2} of the constant voltage generation circuit 32-2 is set to a small absolute value so as to optimize the reduction in current consumption of the oscillation circuit 40. This configuration makes it possible to both reduce the current consumption of the oscillation circuit 40 and also ensure that the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit 40 is stable.

[0108] If there is a plurality of constant voltage generation circuits, it is possible to ensure that any transient change in the constant voltage due to discharge currents during electrostatic application do not affect the oscillation circuit, by setting the constant voltage of the electrostatic protection circuit to be separate from the constant voltage of the oscillation circuit.

[0109] It should be noted, however, that the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 and the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40 must satisfy the condition of Equation 9 given below (if Equation 9 is not satisfied, a forward-direction current will flow in the semiconductor rectifier element D2 every time the oscillation output reaches the level of V_{reg2} during normal operation).

$$|V_{reg1}| > |V_{reg2}| \quad (Equation 9)$$

[0110] In other words, if the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} is generated as a constant voltage that is supplied separately from the constant voltage V_{reg2} that is supplied as the power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit 40, that constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} and the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40 are set such that the inequality of Equation 9 is satisfied. This makes it possible to solve the two technical problems of a reduction in the current consumption of the oscillation circuit and the stability of the oscillation frequency.

[0111] As described above, this embodiment of the present invention could either provide the same constant voltage V_{reg} for the electrostatic protection circuits 200-1 and 200-2 and the oscillation circuit 40, or it could provide the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} and the V_{reg2} for driving separately, in order to reduce the current consumption of the oscillation circuit.

5-2 Second Embodiment

[0112] It is preferable that the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} used in the circuit of the present invention is a constant voltage having a temperature characteristic that ensures a small voltage variation with respect to a temperature change. This is described in detail below.

[0113] The voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40 is set in such a manner that it has the same slope as

the temperature characteristic of an oscillation-stopping voltage V_{sto} of the oscillation circuit 40, as shown in Fig. 13. [0114] This ensures that the condition of Equation 10 is satisfied, so that the oscillation of the oscillation circuit 40 does not stop within the guaranteed operating temperature range of the oscillation circuit 40, and also sets the constant voltage V_{reg2} to a small value that approaches the oscillation - stopping voltage, to reduce the current consumption of the oscillation circuit 40 to the limit.

5 $|V_{reg2}| > |V_{sto}|$ (Equation 10)

10 [0115] This means that, if the oscillation-stopping voltage V_{sto} of the oscillation circuit 40 has a large temperature characteristic, the temperature characteristic of the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40 will also be large.

15 [0116] If the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation is used as the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuit 200, therefore, the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements of the electrostatic protection circuit 200 will also change with temperature. This leads to a problem in that the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit 40 will also change, and the oscillation stability of the oscillation circuit will deteriorate.

20 [0117] For that reason, the circuit of this embodiment of the invention generates two different constant voltages: the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit and the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuit 200, as shown in Figs. 2 to 4. In addition, a constant voltage that has a smaller temperature characteristic than the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit is used as the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} . This makes it possible to suppress changes in the parasitic capacitances of the semiconductor rectifier elements of the electrostatic protection circuit 200 within the guaranteed operating temperature range of the oscillation circuit 40, by using a constant voltage having a small temperature characteristic as the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} , thus making it possible to increase the stability of the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit 40.

25 [0118] Note that the constant voltage V_{reg1} for driving the temperature sensor 400 is preferably used as the above-described constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} with a shallow temperature characteristic, as shown by way of example in Fig. 2. The slope of the temperature characteristic of the constant voltage V_{reg1} for driving the temperature sensor 400 is set to be 1 mV/°C or less, to enable accurate measurement of temperature that is not affected by changes in the ambient temperature. For that reason, the voltage remains substantially unchanged, regardless of any changes in the ambient temperature.

30 [0119] An example of a constant voltage generation circuit that generates the constant voltage V_{reg1} for driving a temperature sensor, which has a temperature characteristic with a shallow slope, is shown in Fig. 14.

35 [0120] In this constant voltage generation circuit 32-1, Nch - transistors I262 and I263 are constructed to the same dimensions, and the current amplification ratio of the transistors I262 and I263 is given by:

35

$$\beta_{nd} = \beta_{ne}$$

40 In addition, if I262 is a depletion type of transistor and I263 is an enhancement type of transistor, the threshold voltages thereof should be such that:

$$V_{tnd} \neq V_{tne}$$

45 In that case, the output V_{reg1} of the constant voltage generation circuit 32-1 is given by the equation below, to generate a constant voltage V_{reg1} that has a difference in threshold voltage between I262 and I263.

$$\frac{1}{2} \beta_{nd} (-V_{tnd})^2 = \frac{1}{2} \beta_{ne} (V_{gs} - V_{tne})^2$$

50

$$V_{gs} = V_{tne} - V_{tnd} = V_{reg1}$$

55 [0121] Since the threshold voltages of the transistors I262 and I263 have the same temperature characteristics, the threshold voltage difference thereof does not change and thus a constant voltage V_{reg1} that is not dependent on temperature is generated.

[0122] It should be noted, however, that the constant voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuit and the

constant voltage V_{reg2} of the oscillation circuit must be such as to satisfy the inequalities of Equations 8 and 9.

5-3 Third Embodiment

5 [0123] If it is assumed that an electrostatic voltage of a negative polarity is applied to the circuit of this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 15 by way of example, a discharge pathway 1000 is formed to discharge this negative-polarity charge to a side of the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} through the electrostatic protection circuit (first semiconductor rectifier element) 200.

10 [0124] If the circuit of this embodiment has a plurality of constant voltage generation circuits 32, therefore, it is preferable to use the constant voltage of the constant voltage generation circuit 32 that has the largest constant voltage drive region (over the entire circuitry to be driven at the constant voltage) as the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} for the electrostatic protection circuit. This is discussed in detail below.

15 [0125] In Fig. 15, D3 denotes an equivalent circuit of the entire circuitry to be driven at a constant voltage by the constant voltage generation circuit 32 (except for the electrostatic protection circuit 200). Since the circuitry to be driven at the constant voltage is basically formed of semiconductors, it can be represented schematically as a parasitic diode D3, as shown in this figure.

20 [0126] The capacitance of this schematic parasitic diode D3 increases as the number of circuits driven by the constant voltage increases, as mentioned previously.

25 [0127] In this case, this increase in the number of circuits driven by the constant voltage and the resultant increase in the capacitance of the parasitic diode D3 leads to an increase in the constant voltage drive region. The semiconductor rectifier element D3 represents a parasitic diode created within the constant voltage drive region.

30 [0128] If an electrostatic voltage of a negative polarity has been applied, the avalanche phenomenon in the parasitic diode D3 is utilized to create the discharge pathway 1000.

35 [0129] In this case, if the dimensions of the circuitry to be driven at the constant voltage increases, more specifically, if the constant voltage drive region increases, the surface area of the parasitic diode D3 of Fig. 15 that is represented as an equivalent circuit also increases, the discharge capability thereof rises, and, as a result, the electrostatic-resistance characteristic of the parasitic diode D3 becomes favorable.

[0130] For the above reason, if there are constant voltages supplied from a plurality of constant voltage generation circuits 32, it is preferable to use the constant voltage with the largest constant voltage drive region (largest circuit dimensions to be driven at the constant voltage) as the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} .

[0131] It is also possible to utilize a configuration in which a semiconductor rectifier element D4 is deliberately connected parallel to the constant voltage generation circuit 32, but separate from the parasitic diode D3, so that it becomes part of the discharge circuit 1000.

35 [0132] In this case too, the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} of the electrostatic protection circuit 200 and the constant voltage V_{reg2} for driving the oscillation circuit 40 must be such as to satisfy the conditions of Equation 8 and 9.

5-4 Fourth Embodiment

40 [0133] The embodiments herein have been described with respect to examples in which the positive power source V_{DD} acts as a reference potential and the power-supply voltage V_{SS} and a constant voltage V_{reg} have negative polarity, but the present invention can equally well be applied only to a configuration in which the negative power source V_{SS} acts as the reference potential and the power-supply voltage V_{DD} and a constant voltage V_{reg} have positive polarity.

(6) Miscellaneous

45 [0134] Note that although the embodiments described herein deal with examples in which diodes are used as semiconductor rectifier elements, it is also possible to form protective circuits with other types of semiconductor rectifier element if necessary. For example, electrostatic protection circuits could be formed by using bipolar transistors as semiconductor rectifier elements, as shown in Fig. 10.

50 [0135] Furthermore, although the above embodiments were described as relating to an example in which the present invention is applied to a portable wristwatch, the oscillation circuit and electrostatic protection circuit in accordance with the present invention could also be applied to other applications, such as use as a reference signal source in various types of electronic equipment in mobile phones and portable computer terminal, where the driving of a drive section (circuitry) of that electronic equipment is based on an output signal of that reference signal source.

55

Claims

1. An oscillation circuit comprising:

5 a first electrostatic protection circuit connected between a signal path of the oscillation circuit and a constant-voltage side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through a first semiconductor rectifier element; and
 10 a second electrostatic protection circuit connected between the signal path and a reference potential side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the reference potential side through a second semiconductor rectifier element,

wherein the constant bypass voltage is a constant voltage that is supplied separately from a power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit.

15 2. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 1.

wherein one of a supplied constant voltage from a constant voltage supply circuit and a constant voltage obtained by dividing or stepping up the supplied constant voltage is used as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit, and the other is used as the constant bypass voltage.

20 3. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 1 or 2,

wherein the first electrostatic protection circuit comprises a third semiconductor rectifier element connected between the signal path of the oscillation circuit and a main power source, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the main power-supply voltage side.

25 4. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 3,

wherein the parasitic capacitance of the third semiconductor rectifier element is set to be a value that is smaller than the parasitic capacitance of the first semiconductor rectifier.

30 5. An electronic circuit comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 1 and a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit.

6. A semiconductor device comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 1 and a circuit board on which the oscillation circuit is mounted.

35 7. A timepiece comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 1 and a time display section which displays a time based on the oscillation circuit.

8. Electronic equipment comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 1 and a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit.

40 9. An oscillation circuit comprising:

45 a first electrostatic protection circuit connected between a signal path of the oscillation circuit and a constant-voltage side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through a first semiconductor rectifier element; and
 a second electrostatic protection circuit connected between the signal path and a reference potential side, and bypassing an electrostatic voltage of a second polarity that intrudes into the signal path to the reference potential side through a second semiconductor rectifier element,

50 wherein the constant bypass voltage is set to a value such that the first and second semiconductor rectifier elements are not turned on by voltage change in the signal path caused by a leakage current, even when a leakage current is generated between the signal path and a power-supply voltage line.

10. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 9,

55 wherein when it is assumed that the power-supply voltage is V_{ss} , the forward-direction on-voltage of the semiconductor rectifier element is V_{Fon} , and the potential difference between the signal path and the power-supply voltage line when a leakage current is generated is V_R ; the constant bypass voltage V_{reg} is set in such a manner that the following inequality is satisfied, within a range of expected operating voltages of the power-supply voltage

IV_{SS1}:

$$|V_{reg}| > |V_{SS1}| - V_R - V_{Fon}$$

5

11. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 9 or 10,
 wherein the constant bypass voltage is a constant voltage V_{reg1} that is supplied separately from a constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit.

10 12. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 11,
 wherein the constant bypass voltage V_{reg1} and the constant voltage V_{reg2} supplied as the power-supply voltage of the oscillation circuit are set in such a manner that the following inequality is satisfied:

15

$$|V_{reg1}| > |V_{reg2}|$$

20

13. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 9,
 wherein one voltage V_{reg2} , which is one of a supplied constant voltage from a constant voltage supply circuit and a constant voltage obtained by dividing or stepping up the supplied constant voltage, is used as a power-supply voltage for the oscillation circuit, and the other voltage V_{reg1} is used as the constant bypass voltage.

25

14. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 9,
 wherein a constant voltage having a temperature characteristic that ensures a small voltage variation with respect to a temperature changes is used as the constant bypass voltage.

30

15. The oscillation circuit as defined by claim 9,
 wherein a discharging semiconductor rectifier element for discharging an electrostatic voltage of a first polarity that intrudes into the signal path to a side of a constant bypass voltage through the first semiconductor rectifier element, is provided between an output of the constant voltage supply circuit which supplies the constant bypass voltage and the reference potential.

35

16. An electronic circuit comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 9 and a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit.

40

17. A semiconductor device comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 9 and a circuit board on which the oscillation circuit is mounted.

18. An electronic timepiece comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 9 and a time display section which displays a time based on the oscillation circuit.

19. Electronic equipment comprising the oscillation circuit defined by claim 9 and a drive circuit which drives a driven section, based on an output of the oscillation circuit.

45

50

55

FIG. 1

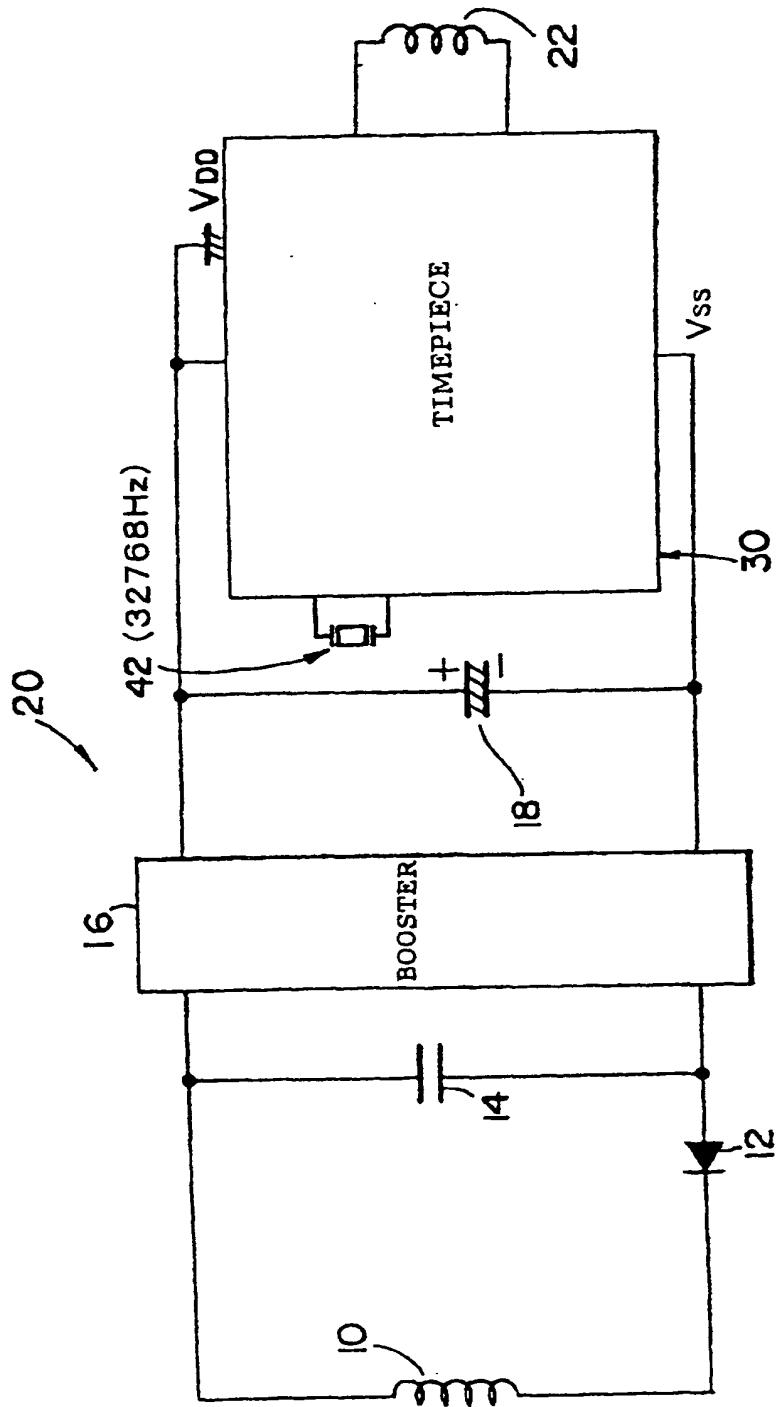


FIG. 2

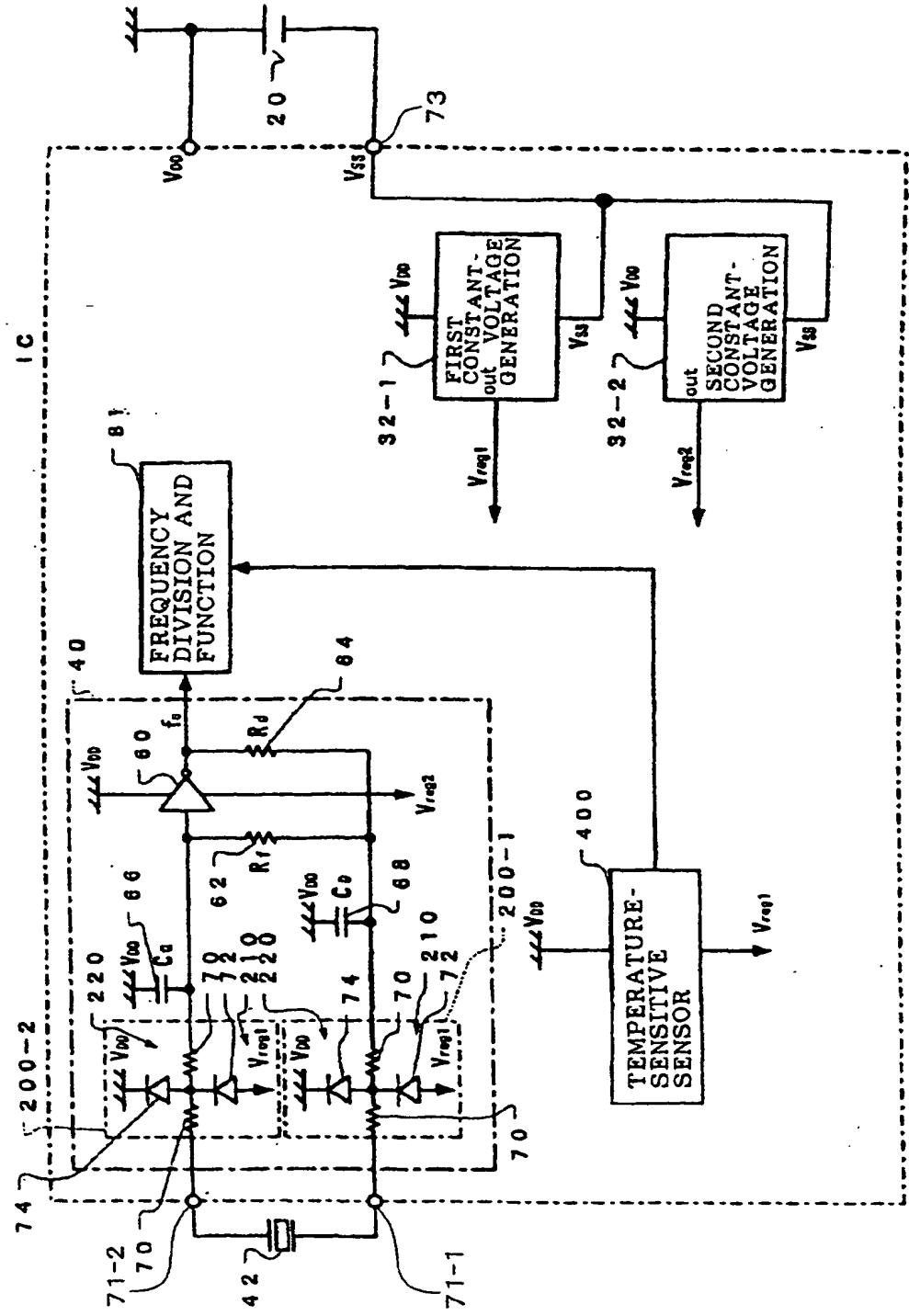
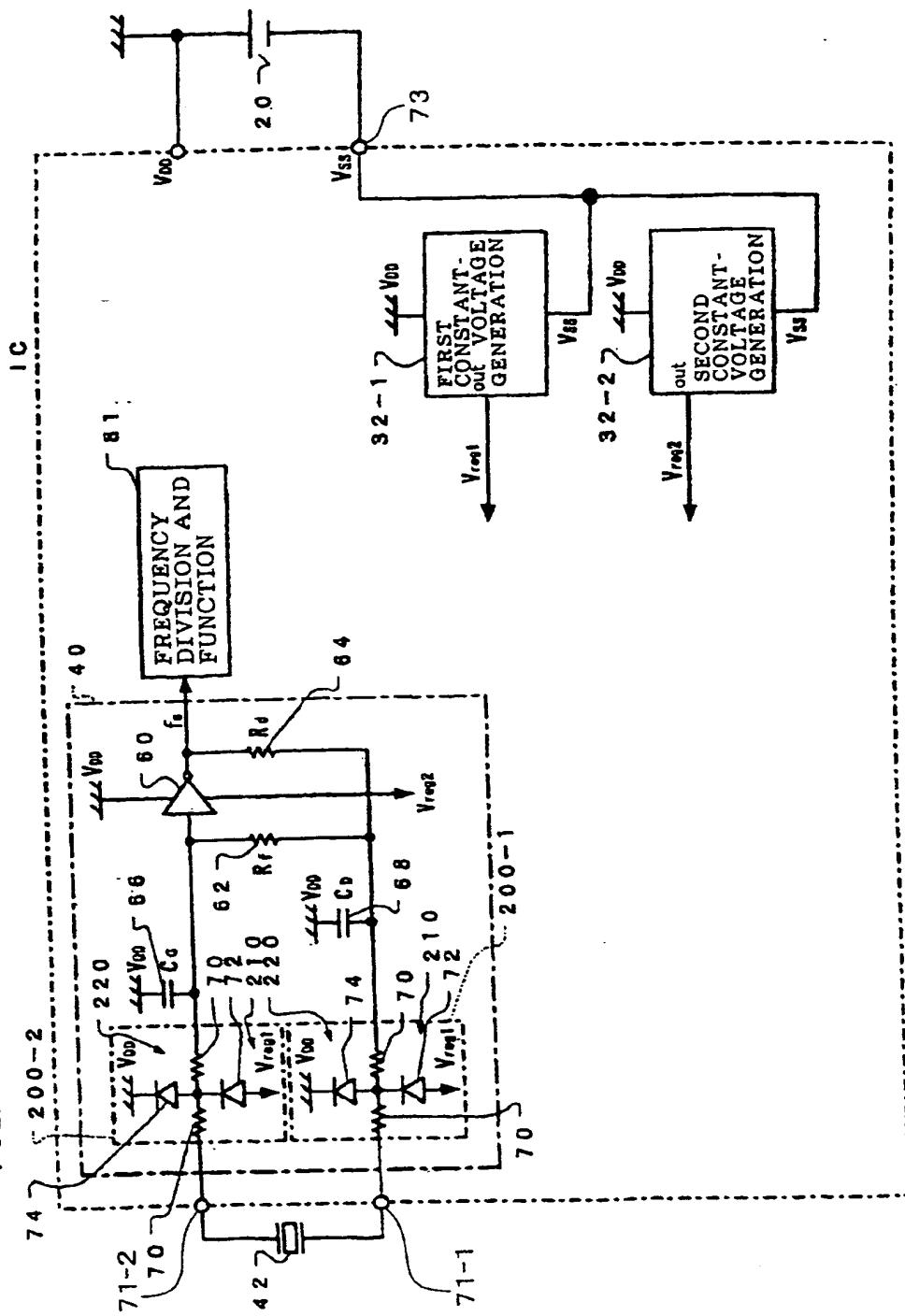


FIG. 3



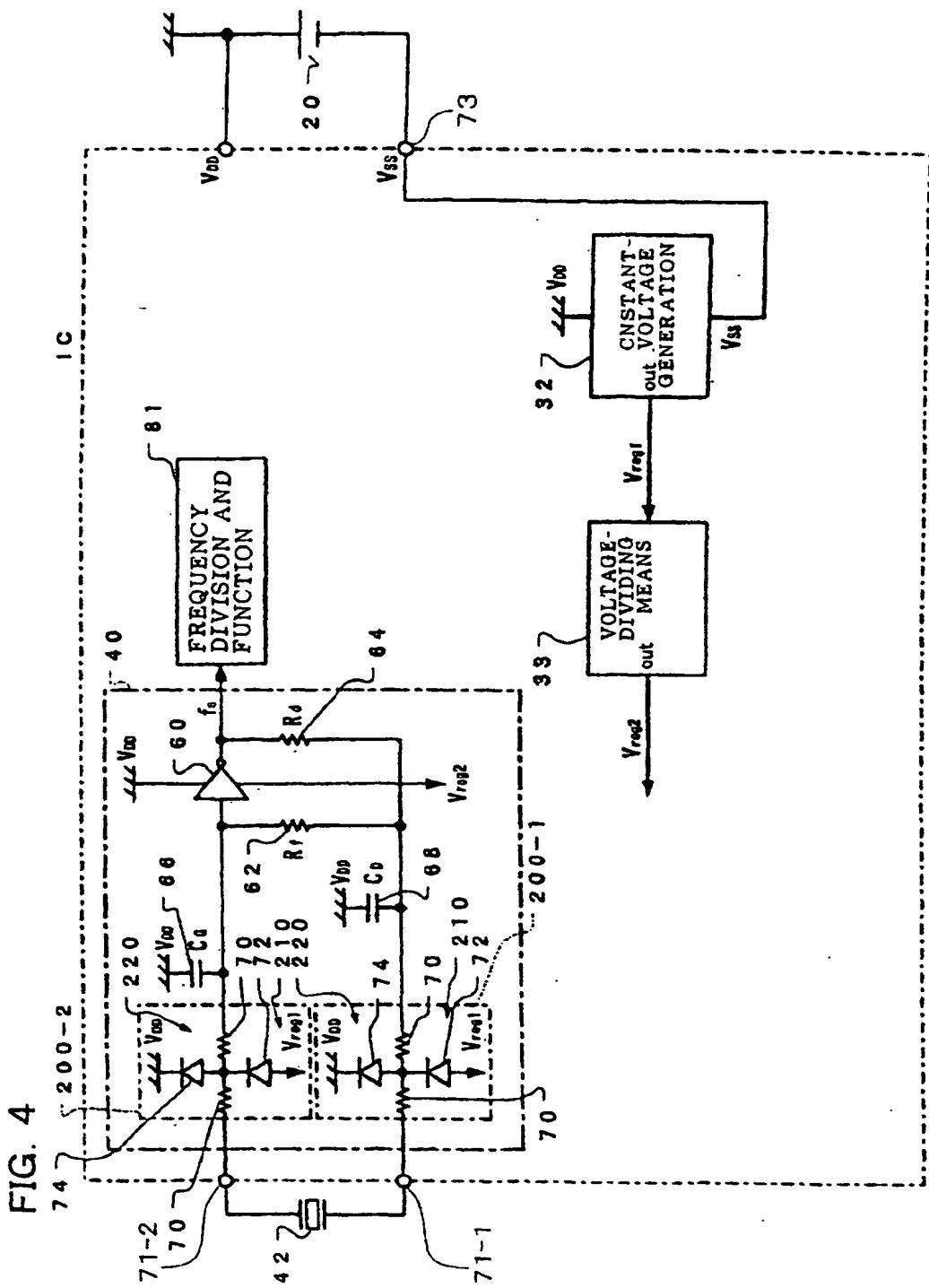


FIG. 5

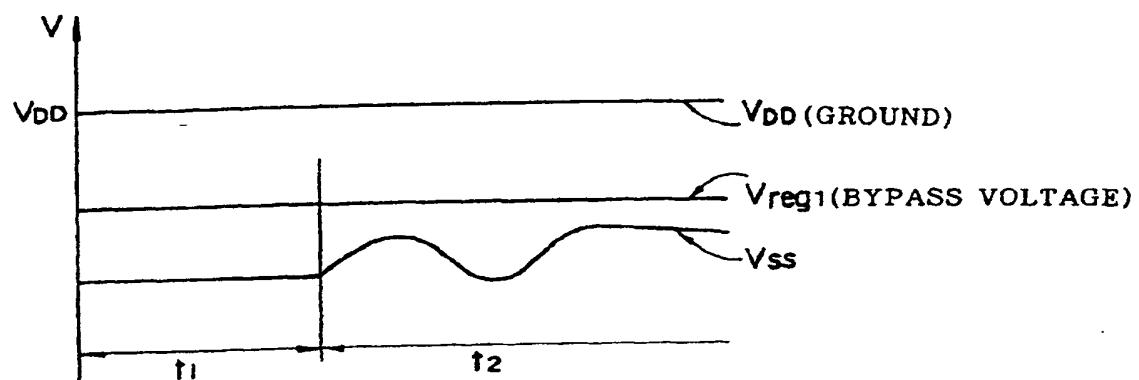


FIG. 6A

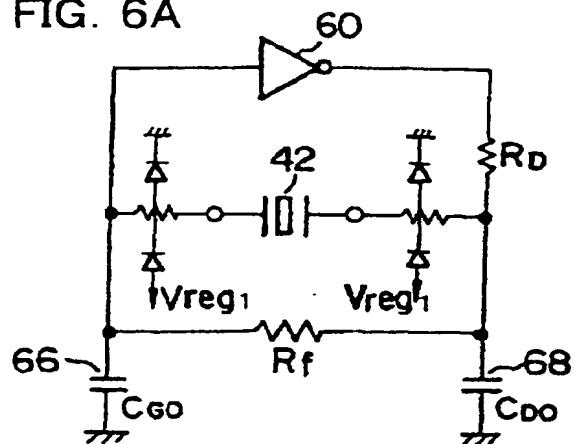


FIG. 6B



FIG. 6C

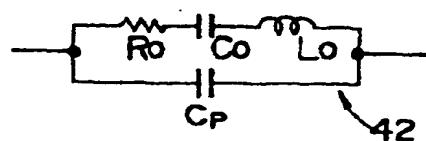
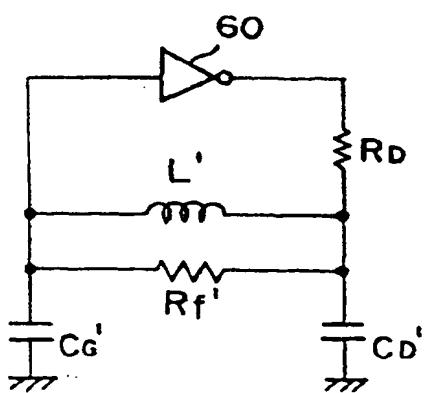


FIG. 6D



C_G' ; C_{GO} , C_o , C_P , C_{VDD}

C_D' ; C_{DO} , C_o , C_P , C_{VSS}

FIG. 7

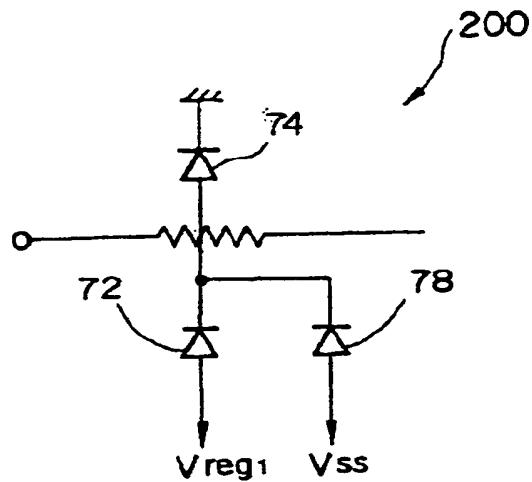
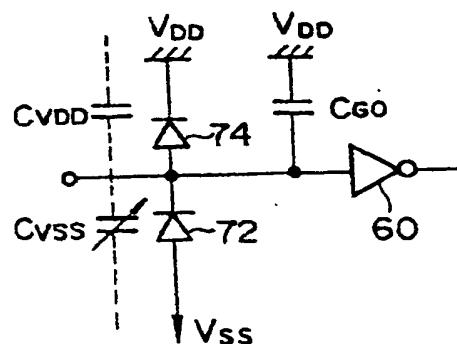


FIG. 8



C_{GP} , C_{DP} : WIRING CAPACITANCES

FIG. 9

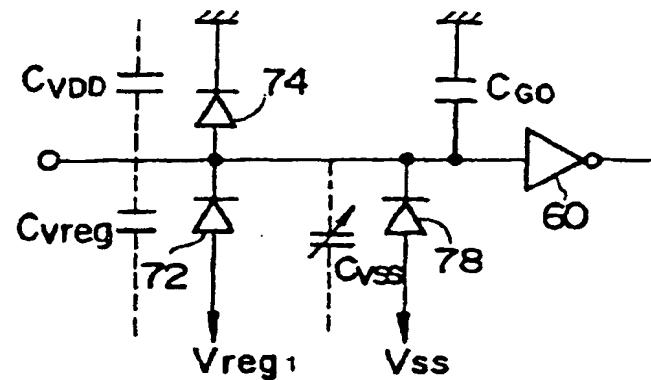


FIG. 10

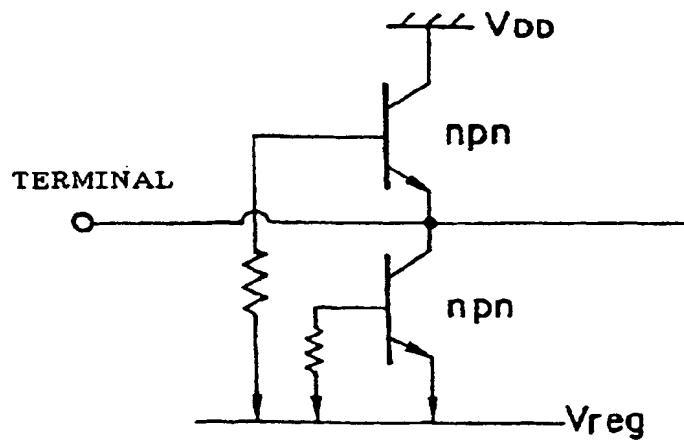


FIG. 11

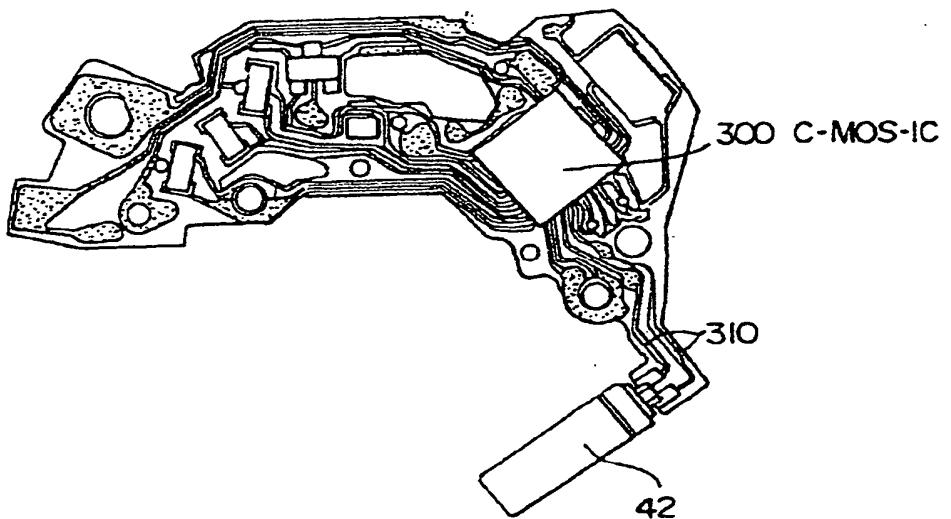


FIG. 12

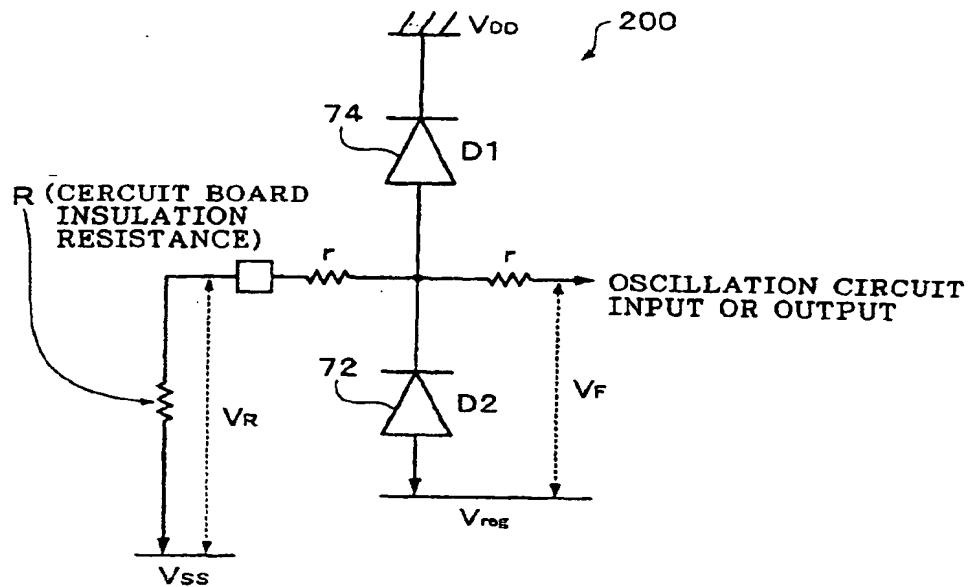


FIG. 13

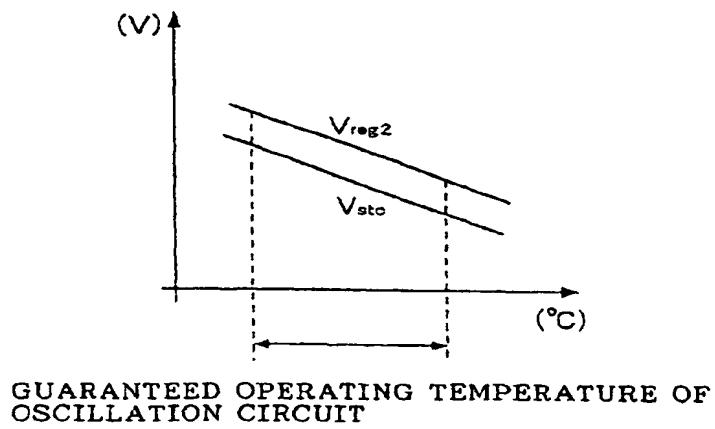


FIG. 14

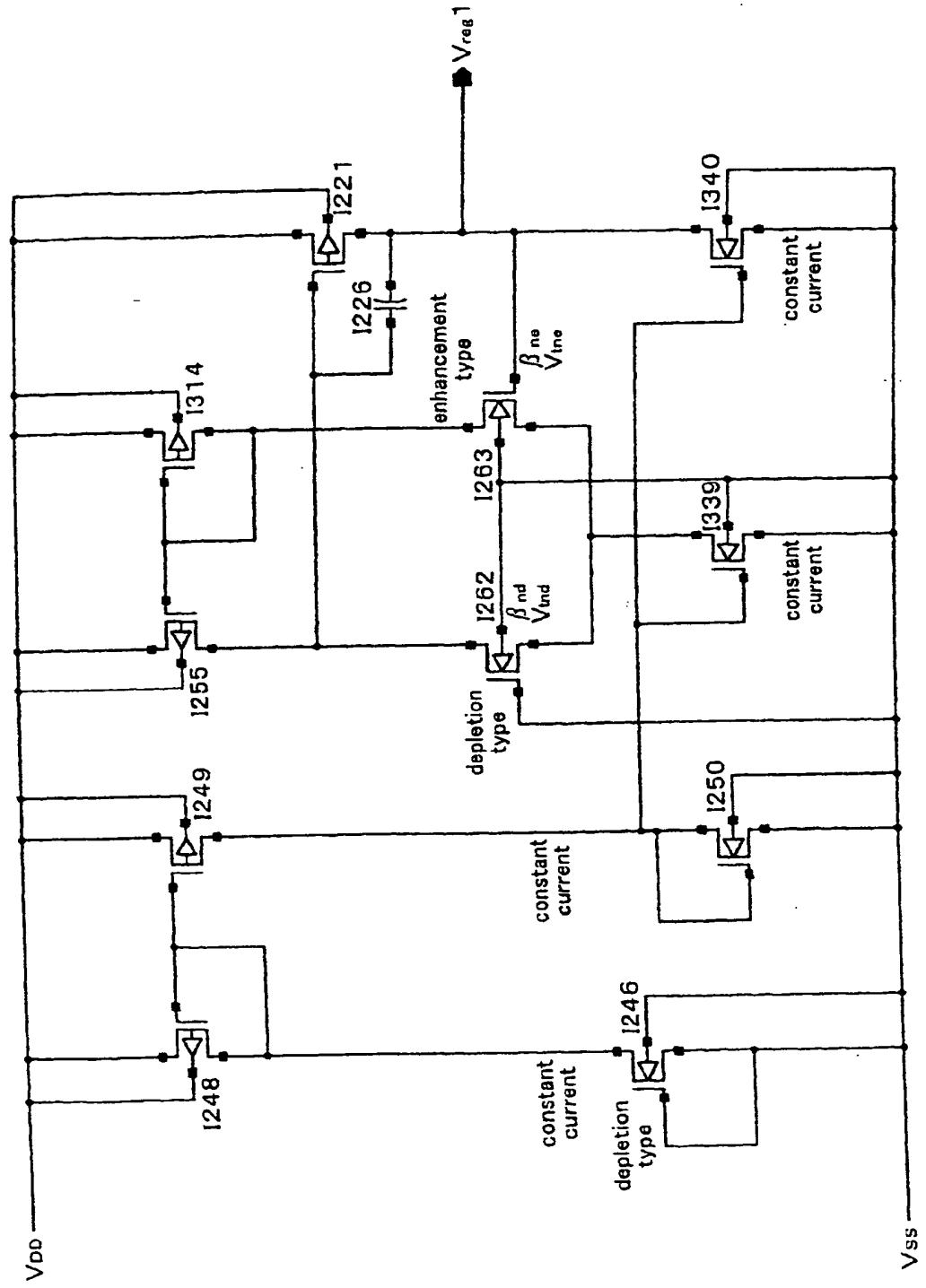
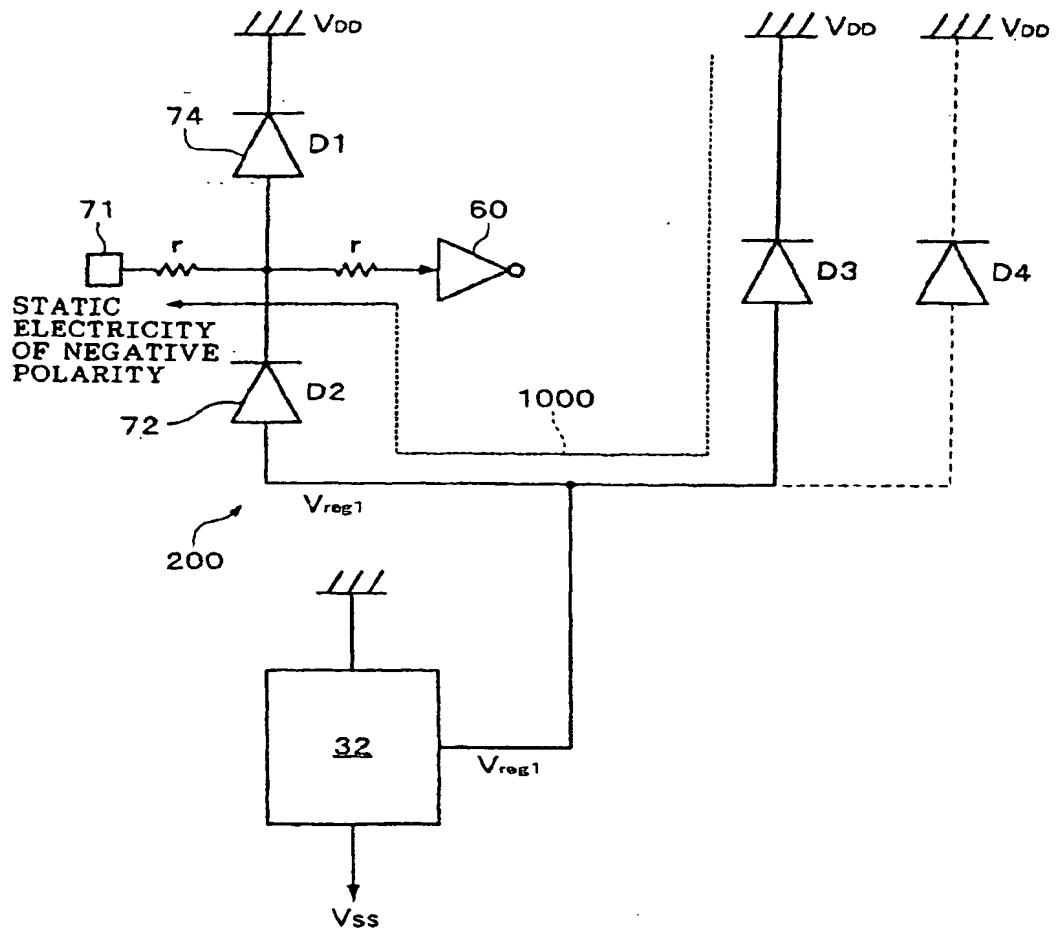


FIG. 15



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT		International application No. PCT/JP01/08393
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl' H03B5/32, H03B5/04, G04G1/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl' H03B5/32, H03B5/04, G04G1/00, H01L27/04		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 9-205325 A (Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.), 05 August, 1997 (05.08.1997), Par. Nos. [0071]-[0072]; Fig. 3	1,5-8
Y	Par. Nos. [0071]-[0072]; Fig. 3 (Family: none)	2-4
Y	JP 8-8651 A (Kinseki Ltd.), 12 January, 1996 (12.01.1996), Par. No. [0010]; Fig. 1	2-4
A	Par. No. [0010]; Fig. 1 (Family: none)	13
Y	JP 10-160867 A (Seiko Epson Corporation), 19 June, 1998 (19.06.1998), Par. Nos. [0081]-[0082]; Fig. 6, & EP 846989 A1 & US 6147564 A	3-4
X	JP 11-289222 A (Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.), 19 October, 1999 (19.10.1999), Par. No. [0002]; Fig. 2	9-12,16-19
A	Par. No. [0002]; Fig. 2 (Family: none)	13-15
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 December, 2001 (21.12.01)		Date of mailing of the international search report 15 January, 2002 (15.01.02)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/08393

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 7-183774 A (Kawasaki Steel Corporation), 21 July, 1995 (21.07.1995), Par. Nos. [0002] - [0005]; Figs. 10 to 11 & EP 663727 A1 & US 5532621 A	9-19
A	JP 50-98263 A (Citizen Watch Co., Ltd.), 05 August, 1975 (05.08.1975), Full text; Figs. 1 to 7 (Family: none)	12
A	WO 98/39693 A1 (Seiko Epson Corporation), 11 September, 1998 (11.09.1998), Full text; Figs. 1 to 15 & EP 915409 A	14

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/JP01/08393

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1-8, 11, 12 relate to an invention wherein a bypassing constant voltage is different from the power source voltage of an oscillation circuit.

Claims 9-19 relate to an invention wherein the voltage value of a bypassing constant voltage is set at such a value that the rectifying element of an electrostatic protection circuit does not turn on because of fluctuation in voltage due to a leakage current from the power source voltage.

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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